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### Vegetable Garden

Cody Peach, Facility Maintenance Worker, at Roger Carter Community Center constructed two garden boxes using a used pallet and garden fabric. Roger Carter now has two vegetable garden boxes on the roof including tomatoes and peppers. Green beans were also planted and have already sprouted in the garden bed on the top level of the parking garage. Contact Cody Peach, [cpeach@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cpeach@howardcountymd.gov), for more information how to easily turn your urban environment into a vegetable garden.



### Adopt-A-Road Clean Up

The June Adopt –a- Road clean-up was very successful in spite of the damp day that we had. Six employees showed up to participate. A total of 41 lbs. of trash was collected along with 14 lbs. of recycling for a grand total of 55 lbs. This brings the Department grand total since the effort began to an overall total of trash to 274 lbs. and an overall recycling total to 101 lbs. Unusual items found included a VISA credit card and a County gas card. The group continued to pick up a lot of trash generated from KoKo Mart, liquor bottles and lottery tickets were common. This was reported to the Department of Public Works as a source of much litter on our section of adopted road. **Please mark your calendars for the next clean-up on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30AM.**



### Sustainable Summer Dates!

**July 26** National Tree Day  
[treeday.planetark.org/](http://treeday.planetark.org/)

**August 9** Smokey The Bear's Birthday  
[www.smokeybear.com/](http://www.smokeybear.com/)

**September 4** National Wildlife Day  
[www.nationalwildlifeday.com/](http://www.nationalwildlifeday.com/)

**September 16** International Ozone Day  
[www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/)

**September 19** International Coastal Cleanup Day  
[www.oceanconservancy.org/](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/)



## In case you missed it, here is the June Green Tip

It is almost summer and turtles are out all over mating and laying eggs. I know many of you will be saving turtles that are crossing the roads. **When you find a turtle in the road, where should you put it?** Generally you should move the turtle off the road in the direction it is going. I say generally because sometimes that direction is a shopping mall. If there is not suitable habitat for it in the direction it is going, the best option is to turn around and take it back where it came from. Resist the urge to put it in your car and drive it home or to a park. Telemetry studies have shown that box turtles will spend their time trying to get back to where they came from and of course that will mean many miles to travel and road crossings to traverse to get back home. They have even been shown to hibernate in the same spot year after year. So not a good idea to move them far away. Snapping turtles can be difficult to move if they are very large. I'm sure you all know they are called a snapping turtle for a reason. Their necks stretch way out and they can bite and do serious harm. Picking them up by their tail can injure their spines so that is not the best way to move them. I like giving them a good swift push with my boot from behind or using a snake hook to push them along. Turtles found in your yard may just be coming to lay eggs in your nice soft mulch beds and not need any rescue.

Berry Powell (LMD) took the time last week to move this snapping turtle off the path at Centennial Park. He was concerned about the children in the park trying to play with it or the other mowers in the park might accidentally run it over.



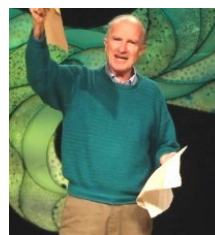
## May's "It Is Easy Being Green" Contest Winners!

In May Recreation & Parks employees participated in an "It's Easy Being Green" contest to show just how simple it is to take steps towards becoming a steward of the environment. Secret green agents kept watch for "green acts" throughout the work day. A total of 93 green acts were submitted for a chance to win a prize. The winners were as follows:



- Week 1 – Erika Borzatti for recycling
- Week 2 – Sandra Lambert for printing on both sides of the paper
- Week 3 – Seth Hoffman for using a reusable water bottle
- Week 4 – Freda Greenfield for bringing in a reusable lunchbox

## FUN FACT: How to Use One Less Paper Towel Each Day!



In 2012, a man named Joe Smith got on the TEDx stage to start a simple movement. Reduce the use of paper towels in the United States. In fact, by his figures, if all used just *one* less paper towel each day, we could save 571,230,000 pounds of paper! And it's doable. Using Mr.

Smith's suggestion, try the following technique the next time you wash your hands in a public bathroom. While your hands are still over the sink, shake them twelve times. Then, take just one piece of paper towel, fold it in half (this provides greater surface area) and dry with just that piece. You will find that it's plenty of paper to dry your shaken hands. Remind yourself to shake and fold for a couple of weeks and it will soon become second nature. And just think of all the trees you're helping to save! Want to see this demonstrated in the full TEDx video? Check it out here: [http://www.ted.com/talks/joe\\_smith\\_how\\_to\\_use\\_a\\_paper\\_towel/transcript?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/joe_smith_how_to_use_a_paper_towel/transcript?language=en)





## Results

- 14 cell phones
- 33 eye glasses
- Participants = 1,500
- Bikes for the World collected 12 bikes
- Goodwill accepted 200 lbs. of donations
- 900 lbs. of electronics collected for recycling
- Date for 2016 is April 16<sup>th</sup> / Theme TBD

## Green Team Highlights at

# Wine in the Woods

- 5 Greenest Level Vendors recognized again this year
- Corks collected at resource recovery stations
- Collected 13.66 tons of recyclable material in the roll-off containers provided by Environmental Services

## Annual Sustainability Speaker Series Reusable Bagged Lunch 2015

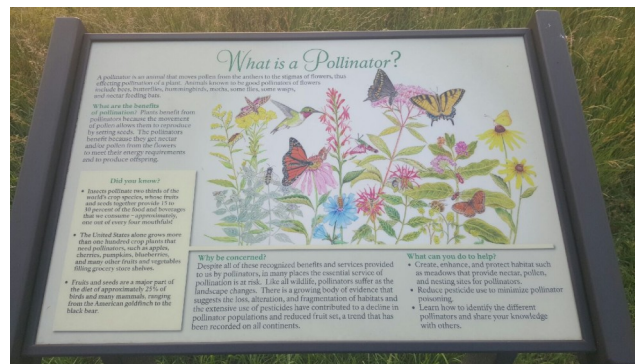


Mark your calendars for Wednesday, **September 9th @ Noon**. Our own Susan Muller will discuss sustainable ways to lower your electric bill! Sue has multiple ways to get you closer to zero waste and lessen your carbon footprint at home. Bring a lunch in your own reusable containers and learn something new with us! All attendees will be entered into a drawing for some great prizes.



## Meadowbrook Interpretive Sign Project

In case you weren't already aware, interpretive signs were installed at Meadowbrook Park last year as part of an exciting cooperative effort between the Department of Recreation & Parks and the Department of Public Works to provide educational material to the public on a number of important issues. DRP developed a series of 9 interpretive signs dealing with various natural resource topics such as wildlife, riparian buffers, wetlands, etc. These signs provide a wealth of information on a number of the interesting natural features of Meadowbrook Park including wetlands, forests and meadows. DPW developed a sequence of 7 interpretive signs to educate the public on various aspects of storm water management (SWM). These signs address not only the need for SWM, but how these needs can be met by employing creative solutions.



This project is proof that we can not only design and build projects that coexist, but actually improve wildlife habitat in the process. What is especially interesting with this project is the fact that we can provide the public with some substantial natural areas and nature study within a intensively developed recreational facility and how well these two entities can co-exist. Be sure to take a stroll along the pathways at Meadowbrook this summer and enjoy the enhanced park experience.





Howard  
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RECREATION & PARKS



## Summer 2015 Sustain-A-Bits

### Howard County Conservancy

The Howard County Conservancy "is a local, non-profit environmental education center and land trust on a mission to educate children and adults about the natural world, preserve the land and its legacy and model responsible stewardship of the environment." The Conservancy was founded by a group of local citizens in 1990, so they are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year!

The Conservancy provides environmental education programs at two locations – the home base at Mt. Pleasant Farm in Woodstock and at our very own Belmont Manor and Historic Park in ElkrIDGE. The Mt. Pleasant Trails/Gardens open dawn to dusk daily. The Belmont Manor and Historic Park is open for scheduled events only.

Be sure to check out all of the programs and activities they have to offer or just take a walk throughout their Mt. Pleasant grounds to connect with nature and see the exciting projects taking place there.

For more information on this environmental treasure of Howard County, visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

